

## *The President's Daily Brief*

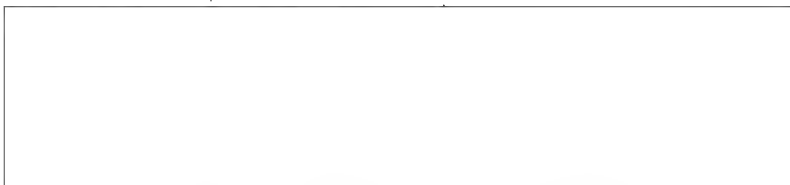
~~Top Secret~~ 4 December 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
4 DECEMBER 1968

1. Israel



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The Israelis have ended a period of relative restraint toward Jordan

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King Husayn's mid-November compact with the terrorist organizations, by which he sought to limit their troublemaking to the Israeli frontier area, clearly had something to do with Israel's reversion to heavy strikes against the Palestinians and their hosts. Yesterday's incidents also show that Iraqi forces in Jordan have lost their relative immunity to Israeli attacks, probably in consequence of their known contributions to terrorist arsenals.

2. Soviet Union

The annual Supreme Soviet examination of the economic budget and plan on 10 December may also be the occasion for high-level discussions of other topics. A central committee meeting normally precedes the parliament session, and the recent recall of senior ambassadors to Moscow suggests that a foreign policy review is under way.

3. Soviet Union

The Russians have harvested a grain crop nearly as good as the record 140-million-ton crop of 1966. They can therefore meet all their domestic needs and foreign commitments and still have some left over to sell for additional hard currency if they so desire.

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#### 4. Communist China

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#### 5. Pakistan

As long as he has the firm backing of the armed forces and the civil service, Ayub can ride out the current wave of antiregime demonstrations and politicking. But reports persist that these traditionally solid pillars of support are being shaken by disaffection over internal corruption and by disenchantment with Ayub personally. If such is the case, then the recent blooming of former Air Force chief Asghar Khan as a political personality could provide a popular focus for an eventual move against Ayub.

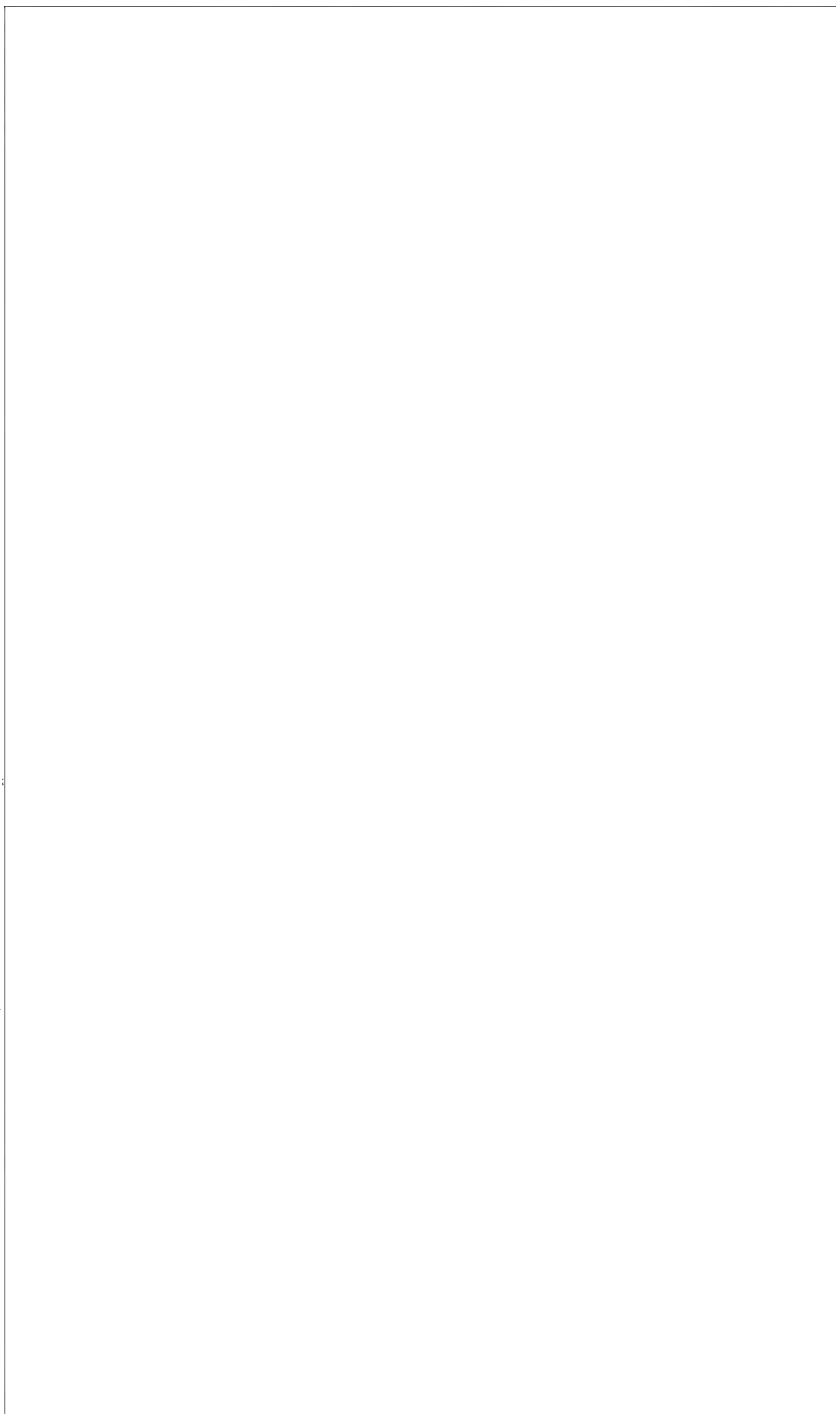
#### 6. Venezuela

The electoral count is still too close and too incomplete to call. Official tallies continue to give Christian Democratic candidate Caldera a slight lead over the government party's man, Gonzalo Barrios. The long count is giving rise to recriminations and charges of fraud, but so far only scattered acts of violence have been reported. Security forces remain on full alert.

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## 7. South Vietnam

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US  
Political Attitudes



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4 December 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

4 December 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Protest: Hanoi has again issued a pro forma official protest over US air attacks in the southern part of North Vietnam. A foreign ministry statement issued on 3 December claimed that US aircraft attacked populated areas of Quang Binh Province on 2 December, killing and wounding many civilians and destroying their property. In language similar to that of earlier protests, the communiqué called the air strikes serious provocations and demanded that the US stop "all encroachments upon the sovereignty and security" of North Vietnam. There was no threat of specific counteractions, however.

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[redacted]  
[redacted] the North Vietnamese are preparing for a possible resumption of US bombing [redacted]  
[redacted] Hanoi was expanding air

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raid shelters and children were being moved even farther from their homes. The North Vietnamese hope to forestall US bombing [ ] by stirring up antiwar sentiments in South Vietnam, the US, and around the world.

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[ ] Hanoi was looking to Japan for trade and technical assistance. [ ] Chinese agricultural experts had been withdrawn from North Vietnam and [ ] both this and Hanoi's refusal to send representatives to the recent Communist conference in Budapest demonstrate North Vietnam's increasing independence from both major Communist powers.

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## II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Montreal Conference: The "Hemispheric Conference to End the War in Vietnam" ended in Montreal on 1 December with an expected declaration of support for the Liberation Front and an unexpected vote of support for the Quebec separatist movement. The conference earlier became badly split when "left wing" elements tried unsuccessfully to expand the agenda to include anti-imperialism in general and not just the Vietnam war.

The closing session was highlighted by the burning of 25 US draft cards by Hanoi's minister of culture, and by a speech from Black Panther chairman Bobby Seale who pledged solidarity with the Vietnamese against the US.

Five North Vietnamese delegates and the two Liberation Front representatives to Cuba attended the meetings.



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